

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 EURE-00
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P R 141623Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9785
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: APRIL 15 "DAY OF PROTEST" CALLED BY TRADE UNIONS

REF: MADRID 2376

1. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DESPITE THE DISINTEGRATION
OF THE COS (THE "UNITY OF CATION" NATIONAL MECHANISM
GROUPING THE SOCIALIST UGT. THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED WORKERS
COMMISSIONS/SWC AND THE SOCIALIST CHRISTIAN USO) LAST
MONTH THE SWC AND USO WENT AHEAD ON THEIR OWN AND CALLED
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UPON ALL WORKERS TO SET APRIL 15 AS A NATIONAL "DAY OF
PROTEST" AGAINST THE LABOR RELATIONS DECREE (MADRID 1715)
AND FOR COMPLETE TRADE UNION FREEDOM FOR ITS PART,
THE UGT PLANNED ITS OWN PROTEST ACTIONS DURING APRIL
TO CULMINATE IN THE TRADITIONAL MAY 1 LABOR DAY
CELEBRATION.

2. ON APRIL 13, SWC, AND USO ISSUED A STATEMENT EMPHZAIZING THE NEED TO HOLD ANY ASSEMBLIES ON THE WORK PREMISES AND TO KEEP THEM PEACEFUL INORDER TO "PREVENT ANY TYPE OF PROVOCATION". AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON APRIL 11. THE UGT ANNOUNCED A "WEEK OF STRUGGLE" (FIRST AY THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL AND THEN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL) IN PROTEST AGAINST RECENT ECONOMIC MEASURES AND THE LABOR RELATIONS DECREE. SPECIFICALLY, THE UGT CALLED FOR AN ASSEMBLY OF WORKERS ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 15. IN FRONT OF THE SSO (SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION) MADRID PROVINCIAL OFFICE, AS WELL AS A "GREAT GATHERING" ON APRIL 30 AT THE MARID BULL RING. THERE WOULD ALSO BE MEETINGS IN GETAFE, LEGANES AND "OTHER INDUSTRIAL AND WORKER ZONES OF MADRID". THE UGT STATED THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT THE WORK STOPPAGES CALLED FOR APRIL 15.

3. COMMENT. TRADE UNIONS ARE STRESSING THE NEED TO KEEP ANY DEMONSTRATIONS PEACEFUL.SINCE THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE LAST WEEKEND PCE MILITANTS AND EXTREME RIGHTWING ELEMENTS, AND LABOR CIRCLES WILL ALERT TO POSSIBLE PROVOCATIONS BY RIGHTIST LUNATIC FRINGE GROUPS. STV VICE PRESIDENT JOSE LEUNDA HAS TOLD US THAT HIS BASQUE UNION WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROTEST, TERMING THEM "COUNTER PRODUCTIVE". IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW WISE IT IS FOR THE UGT TO PURSUE THIS COURSE WITH THE GOVT AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE.STABER

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